

SENATE BILL 624

By Gresham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to the Tennessee
HOPE scholarship.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() "HiSET[®]" means the High School Equivalency Test credential awarded by a state-approved institution or organization;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is further amended by deleting the language "GED[®]," in subdivisions (14) and (34) and substituting instead "GED[®] or HiSET[®],".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902(35), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and substituting instead:

(35) "Student who has obtained a GED[®] or HiSET[®]" means a student who was a Tennessee resident for at least one (1) year prior to obtaining a GED[®] or HiSET[®];

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-905(b)(2), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and substituting instead:

To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, a student shall have graduated from an eligible high school, graduated from a high school located in Tennessee that is not an eligible high school, completed high school in a Tennessee home school program, or obtained a GED[®] or HiSET[®]. To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE access grant, a student shall have graduated from an eligible high school. This

subsection (b) shall not apply to those students applying for Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grants.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-908, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and substituting instead:

(a) To be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship as an entering freshman, a student who completes high school in a Tennessee home school program, who graduates from a high school located in Tennessee that is not an eligible high school, or who obtains a GED® or HiSET® credential shall:

(1) Not be ineligible for the scholarship under § 49-4-904;

(2) Meet the requirements of § 49-4-905;

(3)

(A) Attain a composite ACT score of at least 21 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score of at least 980 on any single SAT test date, if the student completed high school in a Tennessee home school program or graduated from a high school located in Tennessee that is not an eligible high school; or

(B) Pass the GED® tests with an average score of at least 525, the revised GED® tests with an average score of at least 170, or the HiSET® tests with an average score of at least 15, and attain a composite ACT score of at least 21 on any single ACT test date or a combined SAT score of at least 980 on any single SAT test date; and

(4) Be admitted to and enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution no later than sixteen (16) months after completing high school in a Tennessee home school program, obtaining a GED® or HiSET®, or graduating from high school.

(b) A student who, after January 1, 2014, met the requirements of subdivision (a)(3)(B) shall be awarded a Tennessee HOPE scholarship in the 2014–2015 academic year for the 2013–2014 academic year; provided, that the student:

(1) Was not ineligible for the scholarship under § 49-4-904 and met the requirements of § 49-4-905 in the 2013–2014 academic year while enrolled at an eligible institution;

(2) Did not receive the Tennessee HOPE scholarship in the 2013–2014 academic year; and

(3) Is enrolled in the 2014–2015 academic year in an eligible postsecondary institution.

(c) A student who met the requirements of subdivision (a)(3)(B) shall be awarded a Tennessee HOPE scholarship in the 2014–2015 academic year; provided, that the student:

(1) Is not ineligible for the scholarship under § 49-4-904;

(2) Meets the requirements of § 49-4-905; and

(3) Is enrolled in the 2014–2015 academic year in an eligible postsecondary institution.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-918, is amended by deleting the language “GED®” wherever it appears in subsections (a) and (b) and substituting instead “GED® or HiSET®”.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-926(a), is amended by deleting the language “GED®” wherever it appears and substituting instead “GED® or HiSET®”.

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-929(b), is amended by deleting the language “GED®” and substituting instead “GED® or HiSET®”.

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-937(a), is amended by deleting the language “GED®,” and substituting instead “GED® or HiSET®”.

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015, at 12:01 a.m., the public welfare requiring it.